

to defeat their own Federal employees. They spent \$7 million in 6 years. Boy, how about that? These are the little people, the landscapers. Thank God they had the AFGE behind them.

Then, after spending \$7 million and changing the rules—and with the last set of specs, they had 1,500 amendments; imagine if we had 1,500 amendments—what we now find is they are going to have to spend another \$5 million to implement the savings. So they are going to spend \$12 million when the original goal was to save \$7 million. Come on. If we are fighting terrorism and saving money, let's leave Walter Reed alone. It is going to be closed in a couple years because of BRAC. Let the landscapers do their job. Let the doctors and nurses do their job. Let's do our job and pass the Mikulski-Sarbanes amendment.

Mr. STEVENS. The delay in this matter really came about—there is no question there is a serious delay—as it was reviewed and upheld on two occasions. These are third-party entities that did the review, including the GAO. We should not upset a process that has taken so long and is finalized now.

I yield back the remainder of my time and move to table the Senator's amendment. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) would vote "nay".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 234 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	DeWine	Martinez
Allard	Dole	McCain
Allen	Domenici	McConnell
Bennett	Ensign	Murkowski
Bond	Enzi	Roberts
Brownback	Frist	Santorum
Bunning	Graham	Sessions
Burns	Grassley	Shelby
Burr	Gregg	Smith
Chambliss	Hagel	Stevens
Coburn	Hatch	Sununu
Cochran	Hutchison	Thomas
Coleman	Inhofe	Thune
Cornyn	Isakson	Vitter
Craig	Kyl	Voinovich
Crapo	Lott	Warner
DeMint	Lugar	

NAYS—48

Akaka	Cantwell	Dodd
Baucus	Carper	Dorgan
Bayh	Chafee	Durbin
Biden	Clinton	Feingold
Bingaman	Collins	Feinstein
Boxer	Conrad	Harkin
Byrd	Dayton	Inouye

Jeffords	Lincoln	Rockefeller
Johnson	Mikulski	Salazar
Kennedy	Murray	Sarbanes
Kerry	Nelson (FL)	Schumer
Kohl	Nelson (NE)	Snowe
Landrieu	Obama	Specter
Lautenberg	Pryor	Stabenow
Leahy	Reed	Talent
Levin	Reid	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Lieberman Menendez

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4883, AS MODIFIED

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I have an amendment that we wish to adopt. As I understand it, the Allen-Durbin amendment No. 4883 has been cleared as modified. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4883), as modified, was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

ARMY CORPORAL CHRISTOPHER SITTON

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I wish to speak for a moment to honor the memory of a fallen Coloradan: Army Cpl Christopher Franklin Sitton of Montrose.

Corporal Sitton was a medic with the 10th Mountain Division, serving in Afghanistan since March. He had just turned 21 and graduated from Montrose High School just 3 years ago. Now, instead of having his whole life ahead of him, he has been taken from his friends, family and country by a roadside bomb in Kunar, in eastern Afghanistan.

Chris Sitton was looking forward to a medical career. His interest in medicine reached back to his childhood, where as a young man in Quinlan, TX he would accompany his father, a volunteer with a rescue group, on emergency calls.

Corporal Sitton's time in the Army was marked by excellence, not unlike his time in high school. Specialist Sitton entered the Army nearly 3 years ago, in January 2004. In his service, Specialist Sitton received three commander's coins, recognizing his exemplary performance in the Army. One was personally handed to him by a four-star general.

This achievement is remarkable to many but not to those who knew Christopher Sitton. Chris was a natural leader. A standout track star, he is pic-

tured mentoring a younger teammate in a photo that hangs in his high school track coach's office. Young people naturally gravitated to him, and Chris returned their enthusiasm with a smile one friend described as big as Texas itself.

As a young man, Chris Sitton was an accomplished Eagle Scout. He was an avid athlete, a musician and outdoorsman, enjoying his time hiking, skiing and camping. But perhaps most notable, Chris Sitton left a mark on those around him as someone who was always helping others, putting them before himself.

GEN Douglas MacArthur once reflected, "The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars." Chris' legacy as a son, friend and mentor, his willingness to put others before himself, shows how fundamentally he understood this calling to find a better tomorrow. Corporal Sitton sought to make the world a better place in his every action, to bring us to a better understanding of the ties that bind humanity together.

To Corporal Sitton's parents, Judy and Steve Sitton, I know that no words can ease the grief you feel at the loss of your son. I and this entire Nation share, in some small way, your painful sorrow. Corporal Christopher Sitton and his entire family will reside in my prayers tonight and remain in my thoughts.

MARINE CORPORAL JORDAN C. PIERSON

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Marine Cpl Jordan C. Pierson of Milford, CT.

Corporal Pierson, a member of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, was killed in action on August 24 while conducting combat operations against anti-Iraqi forces in Al Anbar Province. He was shot while on foot patrol. He had been previously awarded the Purple Heart for wounds to his arms and legs by shrapnel from an insurgent's grenade 3 months prior.

Having delayed his education at the University of Connecticut, Corporal Pierson joined the Marine Corps in December 2003. It seems to be apparent by the many recollections of his friends and family that Jordan had already proven himself a leader. They recount many of the high-spirited exploits that he both engineered and led. However, his wily deeds quickly gave way to an outstanding performance as a marine devoted to his comrades and mission.

He is fondly remembered as a brilliant light and strong leader with strength of character and self assurance, persistently watching out for his fellow marines. He is described best by his first sergeant: "Corporal Pierson had been a bright spot in his platoon, in a place, that can take the softest of hearts into a void of darkness. Even when the gloom of combat reached deep in a man's soul, Corporal Pierson could bring the Marine back to a sense

of purpose, a sense of why we were here, and that we were making a difference. Corporal Pierson was destined not to only be a Marine, but a leader among Marines. He fostered a sense of caring for Marines while still embodying all it meant to be a Marine."

Corporal Jordan Pierson was a true patriot and defender of our great Nation's principles of freedom of justice. He served as an example of the potent American spirit, which permeates this Nation's history. I am both proud and grateful that we have the kind of defender exemplified by Corporal Pierson serving our great Nation.

Our Nation extends its heartfelt condolences to his family. To his father Eric, his mother Beverly, and brother Ethan, we extend our profound gratitude for sharing this outstanding marine with us, and we offer our prayers and support.

COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 2006

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a bill that could have a significant impact on the family budgets of millions of American households. H.R. 5252, the Communications Act of 2006, passed by the Senate Commerce Committee in June is that bill.

H.R. 5252 is an important piece of proconsumer legislation. It reforms the cable franchising process to permit competition to incumbent cable companies. The result will be competition in the delivery of cable television services to all our constituents.

While prices for Internet access and wireless service continue to fall, cable bills continue to climb and climb—in fact, according to the Federal Communications Commission, those bills have shot up more than 86 percent over the past decade. Millions of Americans have no choice when it comes to their video provider.

H.R. 5252 will change that by bringing real competition and giving consumers the ability to choose who provides their video programming. This is something consumers want and deserve. Competition brings lower prices and consumers win. Competition brings improved customer service—and consumers win. Competition results in service providers seeking to serve narrower segments of the marketplace—and consumers win.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the enactment of this legislation will save consumers billions of dollars a year. In the few markets where video providers have successfully negotiated franchise agreements—for instance, in parts of Florida, Texas and Virginia—consumers have benefited greatly.

According to a recent Bank of America study, in those aforementioned areas, cable bills have fallen by 28 to 42 percent—a savings of as much as \$264 per year for cable customers.

And a recent Phoenix Center report estimates that each year Congress delays cable franchise reform, it costs

American consumers \$8.2 billion in unrecoverable losses from increased cable rates. This is unacceptable.

Furthermore, according to the same report, this means that Florida consumers are losing \$626 million each year. That is a significant amount of money coming out of the pockets of my fellow Floridians. We have the power to change this. Consumers in every State will continue to lose money if we do not act now.

This issue is too important for us to ignore. We all know and understand that technology is changing each and every day—and yet our Nation's telecom laws have not been updated in 10 years.

The United States is the world leader in creating new and innovative technologies and we are at the forefront of bringing these new technologies to the marketplace. Sadly though, when it comes to broadband deployment, the U.S. currently ranks 16th in the world.

We need to act today to update our Nation's telecom laws and bring more choice and competition to the marketplace. Our economy needs it and consumers are demanding it.

I know the Senate Calendar is packed with important legislation which we must complete prior to adjourning. But the video choice legislation will affect every single household in America. It will bring competition to the video programming marketplace, and bring the benefits of competition to all of our constituents, whether or not they subscribe to cable.

I urge my colleagues to support the efforts of Senator STEVENS to bring this legislation before us.

As far as this legislation is concerned, time is money. Change is long overdue, and we are eager to help our fellow Americans keep more of their hard earned money.

We in this Chamber have a responsibility to get this legislation passed sooner, rather than later, so that our constituents can start saving more today, not tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE S. FENTON, M.D.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Wayne S. Fenton, M.D., Director of the Division of Adult Translational Research and Associate Director for Clinical Affairs at the National Institute of Mental Health who was tragically murdered on September 3, 2006.

Dr. Fenton was a man truly passionate about working with the most severe mentally ill population. He was a compassionate and tireless advocate for people with mental illness and the families so desperately trying to help them. He went above and beyond the call of duty and continued a private practice outside of his work at the National Institute of Mental Health. In his private practice, Dr. Fenton readily treated patients with the most severe mental illnesses, very often ones that

other psychiatrists refused to see. These are the patients who are most likely to commit horrific crimes when they do not take necessary medication.

Just last week, I participated in a panel discussion regarding whether the State of New Mexico should enact an assisted outpatient treatment, AOT, program that requires a court ordered treatment for those who are severely mentally ill. It is time we focus on this issue at a State and national level. Dr. Fenton's death should not be in vain; we cannot continue along a path that not only does not help the suffering, but continues to hurt the community. This is a challenging topic to take on and a hard discussion to have but we must start addressing the link between untreated mental illness and violence or we run the risk of seeing more horrific deaths.

Outside of his work and private practice, Dr. Fenton worked with many groups including the National Alliance of the Mentally Ill, the American Psychiatric Association, and the World Psychiatric Association. He served as Deputy Editor of Schizophrenia Bulletin and as a consultant to the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. On numerous occasions he was nominated as one of the Best Doctors in America. He was a leader in the field of mental health research, particularly relating to the study of schizophrenia. Dr. Fenton authored many textbook chapters and more than fifty scientific papers on diagnosing, treatment, and mental health service methods for individuals who suffer from schizophrenia. His central goal was to create a treatment system to allow even those suffering from the most severe mental illness to become functioning members of society.

Dr. Fenton's death truly is a great loss to the mental health community. In the words of Dr. Thomas Insel, Director of NIMH, "It is difficult to grasp such a tragic, shocking loss; a loss not only for his many friends and family but for people with serious mental illness everywhere." As advocates for people with mental illness, and mental health policy, my wife Nancy and I had the pleasure to work with him over the years. I am extremely saddened by his tragic death. I want to extend my thoughts and prayers to his family, friends, and coworkers at this time. It is my hope they remember the great impact he made during his time with us. I express my deepest sympathy to them.

NOMINATION OF JAMES O'GARA

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, prior to the August recess, the Senate sent the nomination of James O'Gara to be the Deputy Director for Supply Reduction at the Office of National Drug Control Policy back to the White House for reconsideration. Mr. O'Gara's nomination was strongly opposed by Senators on both sides of the aisle, which prevented it even from being reported out